

# The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

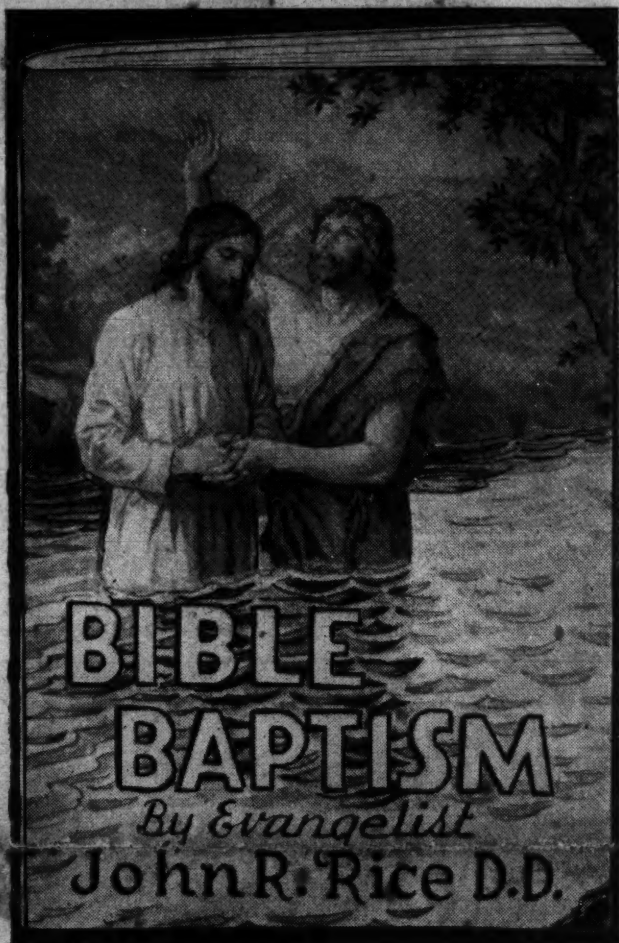
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## A STORY OF SOUL WINNING

By Rev. A. R. Corn  
Pastor Methodist Church, Holland, Texas

For a number of years my closest friends have been urging me to put this story into print. But for fear of seeming to exalt myself I refused to do it. But now I do it to the glory of God who is able to save to the uttermost all them that come unto Him.

I was a student in the Moody Bible Institute a few years ago, studying for the ministry. And so far as this world's goods were concerned I was like many other ministerial students—poor, and was earning my way through school by passing out hand-bills, washing windows, beating rugs, washing door steps, polishing floors, waiting table in restaurants, working on elevated railroad, or whatever I could get to do.

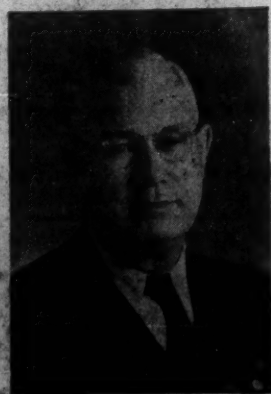
At spring vacation I was very anxious to go home to see my mother, who was very sick; but I had no money except one dollar of the Lord's tithe. I told the Lord that if He would send the money on which to go home, I would use every possible opportunity to win souls for Him while away. I believed He would answer that prayer, so I spent the Lord's dollar for tracts to use on the way home. A day or two before vacation a relative wrote me that he would pay my fare one way if I wanted to come home.

I started home at midnight. On the street car a drunken man sat down beside me. I tried to quiet him, but he made fun of me and my religion, and said vulgar things

to the women near him, but I did the best I could for him.

Soon I was seated in the train that took me home. I was a little discouraged with my efforts with the drunken man, but that made me pray a little more earnestly that I might be led of the Holy Spirit. After a little while I turned to the people behind me and said in a kind way, "Would you like to have something interesting to read?" They took the tract and thanked me for it; so did the people in front of me. I bowed my head and silently prayed that the Holy Spirit would send home the

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Rev. A. R. Corn

## "Preaching That Wins Souls"

By Evangelist Joe Henry Hankins, D. D.

(Sermon Preached Nov. 12, 1942 at Sword of the Lord Conference on Evangelism at Chicago. Mechanically Recorded for The Sword of the Lord.)

I Read the Last Two Verses of the Third Chapter of Second Timothy, and the First Two Verses of the Fourth.

*"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine."*

Fifteen years ago I promised the Lord that I would never preach a sermon without giving an invitation; without giving a person a chance to accept the Lord Jesus Christ, for there might be somebody there that I would never preach to again. So on Sunday mornings I give an invitation, on Sunday nights I give an invitation, on Wednesday night at prayer-meeting I always give an invitation. That may sound peculiar. I have had as many as eight people saved on Wednesday night, at a Wednesday night prayer-meeting service. I also promised the Lord that I would never preach a sermon on any subject what so ever without putting into it a message to an unsaved soul and somewhere in the sermon telling a sinner how to be saved.

By way of illustration: I was preaching a series of Sunday

morning sermons to my church in Little Rock on "The Church Family." The first sermon was on the pastor and his relationship to the church and his obligation under God, and then the deacons and their duties and their relation to the church and the pastor and so on. I didn't preach a single one of those sermons without somebody being saved. There were four people saved the day I preached on the office of deacon.

I preach a great deal on stewardship and tithing. The fact is, in my churches I have always set aside the month of November each year and preached two sermons each Sunday during the month on some phase of stewardship or tithing. Souls have always been saved during November. I was invited to the First Baptist Church of Fort Smith Arkansas, to preach a week in a stewardship revival. I preached twice daily on stewardship or tithing and had sixty-four conversions during that week.

Now the way I do that is by always preaching a twofold message. If I am preaching what we ordinarily term an evangelistic sermon to unsaved people, I always put in something to the Christian that might need prodding a bit, or might need inspiring or encouraging, or something to deepen his

spiritual life and feed his soul. Then I always take into consideration that there may be some backslidden, cold, worldly Christian present that very seldom ever comes to church who needs something to wake him up. So I put in something to help him. Even in a typical evangelistic sermon I had better put something in for him in case he might not be back the next time.

Now I want us to think together tonight on the kind of preaching that will win souls to Christ. And you will pardon me for personal reference, but I shall talk about the kind of preaching I do. Because it works for me, I know it will work for others. In the last fifteen years I have seen over eight thousand souls walk the aisles for Christ, and most of my time has been given to the pastorate. Oh, how I do love to preach to unsaved people and to see them come to the Lord!

I. Preach for Conviction  
Here is Paul's admonition to  
(Continued on page two)



Dr. Joe Henry Hankins

## Lot's Powerlessness

By Evangelist John R. Rice

Last week my message was on the worldliness of Lot, the ways he fell into sin. If you will read again Genesis, chapters 13 and 19, you will see that Lot sinned in putting money first, in calling the wicked his brethren, in letting Sodom get his children, and in taking up the drink habit of Sodom. Those are the sins of this saved man, who, says II Peter 2:8, "vexed his righteous soul" with the deeds of wicked Sodom. We saw the tragic ruin to which Lot came; wealth gone, wife turned to a pillar of salt, married children and grandchildren burned to death in Sodom, (and gone to Hell too, as far as we know), and his two single daughters both having illegitimate children by his drunken incest! Oh, be warned, reader, of the results of sin, even in a Christian's family.

Now we continue the message about Lot. After his worldliness, we discuss,

### II. The Powerlessness of This Saved Man

The worldliness of Lot was trag-

ic. But it had its fruitage in a far worse and more deadly sin, that is, his powerlessness.

Christians need never be without power to win our loved ones and many of our associates. A surrendered, Godly Christian, living in the will of God, seeking His favor, can be so filled with the Holy Spirit that he will have a supernatural influence on his wife and on his children, and on his associates. Jesus said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matt. 4:19). And anyone who closely follows Jesus will have power to win souls.

Jesus also said, "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house."

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## Lot's Powerlessness

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Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 5:13-16).

A Christian who doesn't have salt can't save anybody. A Christian whose light is under the bushel of worldliness, cannot light the darkened heart and mind of his own children or his neighbors. But when a Christian has no influence for God, sin is to blame. Powerlessness is wickedness. In Ephesians 5:18 we are commanded, "Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit." That verse proves it is a sin to get drunk. Then the same verse proves that it is a sin not to be filled with the Spirit!

Lot was responsible for the destruction of his whole city, and that the entire town went to Hell. For in the eighteenth chapter of Genesis we are told how God told Abraham of His plan to destroy Sodom and how Abraham interceded and how God promised to spare the city if there were ten righteous persons in it. And the ten righteous persons were certainly to have been just saved people, like Lot; not perfect people, but people who in their hearts had trusted in the Lord and loved Him. If Lot had won his own wife, his two younger girls, and three married daughters with their husbands, then the whole city of Sodom would have been spared so that some, at least, might repent and be saved. Or if Lot had won a few of his own servants, the city would have been spared. Lot was such an enormously wealthy man that he had many herdsmen and perhaps he like Abraham had hundreds of slaves. But Lot had not won one of them to love and trust the true God! Or if Lot had spent his time when he sat in the gate of Sodom and would "needs be a judge" in really winning his immediate associates, the city would have been spared. But Lot did not do it. There is not any evidence there was a single person in the entire city, not one even in Lot's family but himself, who was truly saved and truly loved God.

### I. First, notice the powerlessness of Lot in regard to the men of Sodom

He called them brethren. He sought their favor. He listened to their profanity, saw their drinking and perhaps drank with them. He saw their lewdness and did not specially rebuke it, though it grieved him. He even offered them his innocent daughters to keep their favor and to turn them from the angels. But these wicked men, for whom Lot gave up so many principles and committed so many sins, despised his testimony. They said, "Stand back. And they said again, This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door" (Gen. 19:9).

The Christian who drinks cannot win his drinking companions to Christ. The girl who dances will never win her dancing boy friend. You may think to gain favor and influence with the unsaved by joining with them in the lodge, or attending with them the movies, or by smoking or drinking or playing bridge with them, but you cannot! Worldliness means powerlessness! And that means that every Christian who sells out is guilty in the murder of the poor, lost souls that go to Hell because he lost his influence. Lot could not win the Sodomites. They despised him. Any

one among them would have listened respectfully to Abraham, who would not live in their cities, who abhorred their evil practices, who would not associate with them. But to Lot, their worldly-minded friend, they would not even listen with respect! And so the whole wicked city went to Hell because Lot, the only man God had at hand, had sold out and did not have the power of God.

### 2. Next, Lot had no influence with his sons-in-law

Genesis 19:14 says, "And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons-in-law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons-in-law." That is one of the saddest verses in the Bible. Lot's religion was a joke to his sons-in-law. They laughed at his urgent entreaties. They did not believe that destruction was coming on the city. And while they stayed and mocked, they died. And Lot was responsible. Lot let them go to Hell because he had sold his influence.

Some of you who read this cannot get your children and your sons and daughters-in-law even to go to church. You cannot get them to read the Bible. They do not want you to talk to them about their souls. Your religion, like Lot's, is a joke to them. Then, dear friend, I'm afraid I know why! You, like Lot, have lived in Sodom. You, too, have chosen the things of the world rather than the things of God. Your powerlessness is a wicked sin. You will be to blame if your loved ones go to Hell because you did not clean up your life, you did not wait in the secret closet, you did not surrender wholly to the power of the Spirit so that you could win your loved ones. Oh, no surrender, no sacrifice, no waiting on God, no loss of friends or money, no sacrifice of time is too much, if you keep your children and your loved ones out of Hell!

It may be that was the first time Lot ever realized he had no influence with anybody as a Christian. It may be then he was like startled Samson first awaking from his sleep with his hair cut off, "And he wist not that the Lord was departed from him." So many, many Christians drift along aimlessly, thinking themselves very good Christians indeed. They do not steal, they are not outrageous sinners, they are greatly respected for morality and uprightness. But, alas, they have no power with God, and hence they have no influence with men, in the matters of God. Abraham, living in his lonely tent in the hills, had time to look out at the stars and remember that God had promised that his seed should be so many, innumerable; and he had time to talk with God. But Lot with his business, his wine, and his fellowship with wicked "brethren" had lost his touch with God, and hence had no power with men. At last it came home and his own sons-in-law, and perhaps his married daughters, had no confidence in his testimony, did not even take him seriously, thought him a joke!

### 3. Third, Lot did not have spiritual power enough even to save his wife

Her heart was in Sodom. Though she was led away by the merciful hands of the angels, yet she resisted, her heart turned back, and so she lingered behind and looked back toward Sodom. Sodom held all that was dear to her: her daughters, her society companions, her rich neighbors, her fine home, and the enormous property that Lot had accumulated. But, alas, Sodom held also the curse of Almighty God. And so Lot's wife was turned to a pillar of salt.

No man ever ought to live so that his wife will not follow him anywhere for God. No woman, who is a Christian, ought ever to be so powerless that she cannot win her own husband. The other day a woman said to me, "Brother Rice, my husband won't listen to me. He has no confidence in my Christianity. He won't let me talk to him about his soul. He will not go with me to church. Oh, what shall I do!" I answered, without intending to be too severe, and I think I answered honestly, "Your husband knows you better than I do. If your life does not ring true, he knows why, but I do not. But

I know that you can so live and so pray and so wait on God and be filled with His Spirit; you can so live out the fullness of God's presence that your husband will have confidence in you and will listen to you."

A mother said to me, "Brother Rice, will you talk to my boy? You know how boys are, they won't listen to their own mothers." And I answered, "I listened to my mother." I knew many boys who listen to their mothers. That depends on what kind of a mother you are. The mother who is the right kind of a mother, out and out for God, against sin, filled with the Spirit, loving, prayerful, waiting on God, filled with the love and kindness and patience and gentleness of Christ—such a mother boys listen to. I know that fathers and mothers can have influence over their children if they begin early. And I know that wives can always win their husbands, if they really mean business and do not wait too long. But Lot lost his wife and, as far as we know, she went to Hell.

### 4. And then again, Lot had no spiritual influence over his two younger daughters

Their mother was dead. They lived alone with him in the cave. It would seem that there had never been an opportunity for father and daughters to be drawn so close together. They had suffered together, no doubt had wept together over their loved ones. The young admirers of Sodom were all gone. The distractions of the social whirl are not here. Surely Lot could not gain confidence of his daughters and win them to know and love the true God. But he did not. He had his daughters out of Sodom, but he did not have Sodom out of his daughters. Lot had his wine with him there in the cave. They

## "Preaching That Wins Souls"

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Timothy, a young preacher, "Preach the Word." Whether you are a personal soul-winner or a Sunday-School teacher or a preacher from the pulpit, the first thing you have got to do to win a soul to Christ is to get him lost, before you can get him saved.

I think you will understand my terminology there. I mean by that you will never see a soul saved, genuinely born again by the Spirit of God, until the Holy Spirit has wrought conviction in that heart. I'm just as old-fashioned there as could possibly be. You can get a person to join the church without conviction of the Spirit, but you can't get him saved without it. I have seen them coming down the aisle dry-eyed, and in the attitude that they were doing God

knew his life. They had no confidence in his testimony for godliness. So they plotted to get him drunk, which they did, and completed their own ruin!

But the most real sin of Lot in this case was not in his wine-drinking, it was not in the adultery he committed. That was horrible, but he knew nothing of it. Back of all that was the greater sin; he had lost his touch with God, he had lost his influence with his daughters. Lot was a Christian, but he did not have the marks of a Christian. He did not have the joy of a Christian. He did not have the fruit of a Christian.

### Some Conclusions

Surely, dear reader, you see that Christians ought to come out and be separate. Oh, I pray that as you read this some of you may make up your minds to come out of Sodom. Bring family, bring

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a favor by accepting His Son. The trouble in such cases is that there is no Holy Ghost conviction.

A personal worker in my church went out to a hospital one afternoon and came back to me and reported that she had nine conversions. And I said, "Mary, were they saved?" She said, "What do you mean? They accepted the Lord!" I said, "Mary do you realize that a person can make a mental acceptance of the Lord and never know a thing about salvation?" I said, "It is absolutely impossible for one person to deal with nine people who are not already under conviction and lead them to a real saving experience in Christ in one hour."

I repeat: The first task is to get unsaved people to realize that they are lost and to get them under conviction. No person will be saved until the Holy Spirit has wrought conviction in his heart; conviction deep enough to cause him to face his condition in God's sight, see his need of Christ, repent of his sins and turn to Christ for salvation. Conviction is solely the work of the Holy Spirit. You and I cannot produce it. We may make a sinner cry by telling sob stories, playing on his emotions or singing, "Tell mother I'll be there," and thereby get him to join the church; but conviction that leads to repentance is strictly a work of the Spirit.

I was conducting a meeting in Texas some years ago. There was a brilliant young infidel, a graduate in science from Yale, attending. He inveigled me into an argument on the Bible and science. Since I am also a graduate in science I thought, "Old fellow, I'll just take you on for a little argu-

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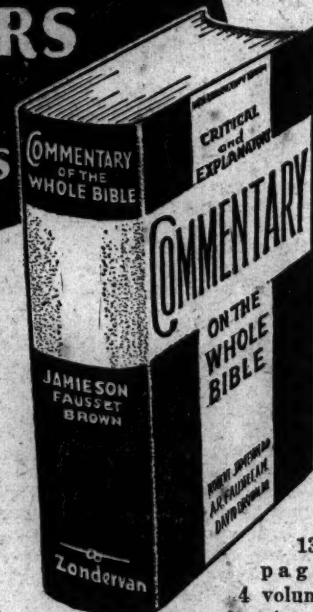
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## "Preaching That Wins Souls"

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ment on that line, since I have studied those things somewhat myself. I soon found that I was no match for him in the scientific field, and that such a procedure was more than useless. So I quit the scientific argument and resorted to the Word of God. I also began to pray for the Holy Spirit to convict him. He continued to come to the meeting and one night the Spirit did His work. That infidel came forward and fell on the ground in that brush arbor and literally rolled in the dirt as he prayed and cried to God for mercy, and he was gloriously saved. I realized then as never before how utterly dependent we are upon the work of the Holy Spirit in winning souls to Christ. Conviction is wrought in the sinner's heart by the Holy Spirit using the Word of God. Hence the admonition of Paul to "preach the word."

### 2. Preach on Sin and Human Depravity

Many Christian workers, and preachers as well, insist only upon a person accepting Christ. They teach that a person is saved by faith alone. Paul said to the Ephesian elders, "I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have showed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house, testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." (Acts 20:20-21). If we are to bring lost souls to repentance, we must come back to preaching the great fundamental truths of the Bible. If we are to have another great revival, I am convinced that it will be the result of such preaching. I would say that we must come back first of all to preaching on sin and human depravity. We must drive home to the sinner's heart his condition before God; that he is a sinner by nature; that he is born in that state and that there is nothing whatever in him to commend him to a holy God. You know a sinner likes to be proud of himself. He likes to believe that he is a pretty good fellow; that he is all right just as he is. He likes to think he is not so bad after all. And there is no way in the world to get him to realize the condition that he is in except to give him what God says about it. "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." (Psalm 51:5). "The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies." (Psalm 58:3). What does God say about it? Read the first three chapters of Romans. The blackest picture that you ever read in your life is the picture that God draws of the unregenerated human heart.

Now the trouble with a lot of our preaching, a lot of our personal soul-winning, and a lot of people joining the church is that we haven't realized, many of us, that in salvation God is not merely dealing with what a man has done, or the sins he has committed; but is dealing primarily with what a person is! God goes to the root of the trouble in salvation. He proposes to change what a man does by changing what the man is. Anything else that deals merely with the sins, the outward, overt acts of sin, is simply treating the symptoms and isn't touching the disease.

If I break out with boils, as I did not so many months ago, there is no use in the world in putting salve and plasters on those boils. They are coming from something else; there is something wrong somewhere else. The eruption is merely the symptom, the evidence that there is something wrong. There is just as much sense in trying to treat the boil itself as there is in just trying to deal with the outward manifestation that we call sin. No use to put a plaster on a cancer! You have got to go down and take the thing out by the roots if you ever do it any good! If you ever do humanity any good, you have got to go deeper than the symptoms. There is a disease. That is what God proposes to do in salvation; go right down into the human heart to cure the disease of sin, to plant a new nature there and change what a man is. Then you don't have to worry about what he will do.

But we so often think—and the sinner gets the idea, too, because

in our preaching we fail to show him his condition before God and press that truth home, and so he gets the idea that all he has got to do is just to straighten up, clean up, turn over a new leaf, join the church, and then live right and behave himself and make a good church member, and he is all right. Oh, how we need to drive home to the unsaved heart that human nature is depraved, diseased, and rotten. As Paul says, "The mouth is an open sepulchre." If you analyze that figure that Paul used, you will find him saying that unregenerated human nature is just like an open grave in which a dead human body has been placed and left uncovered, and the stench of that decomposing body goes out from that grave day and night.

### 3. Preach for and Call People To Repentance

Then there is another thing we have got to do in no uncertain terms: Call sinners to genuine Holy Spirit repentance. And when I say Holy Spirit, I mean Holy Spirit wrought. I believe the Holy Spirit, using the Word of God, is the means to bring conviction, and I believe that repentance is also a work of the Spirit. If we are going to bring sinners to real repentance, we must ring the changes on sin, on the exceeding sinfulness of sin. Preach on Hell fire and damnation without apology. We preachers need to keep it impressed on our own hearts that there is an awful Hell from which sinners need to be saved. And the sinner needs that awful Bible truth pressed home to his heart. Preach the judgment of God and the wrath of God against sin. Remember that God is a God of wrath, a God of judgment and inexorable justice as well as a God of love. Some of us preachers give the world the idea that God is some dear old soft, mushy, sentimental, indulgent granny woman. Sinners need to know that the Bible teaches just as positively the wrath of God as it does the mercy of God.

Paul said, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth... For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith." (Acts 1:16-17). But that is only half the statement that Paul made about the gospel. We forget that the other half of the gospel revelation is: "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men." (Acts 1:18). We need to be reminded again that "All scripture is given by inspiration of God"—that portion of it that tells about Hell, judgment and the wrath of God as well as that which tells of the love, mercy and grace of God. We are responsible to God and a lost world to preach a whole gospel.

I preach so much on these that a dear woman came to me once and said, "Brother Hankins, as much as there is in the Bible about the love, mercy and grace of God, why can't you quit preaching on these unpleasant things for a while and preach on the love of God?" I said, "God inspired all the Bible and commanded us to preach it all. Sinners must be told the whole truth. Sinners need to hear about the wrath of God. They need to know what God has said about sin, Hell and judgment. They need it burned into their hearts that they are lost and on the way to an eternal Hell, or they will never repent of their sins and turn to Christ for salvation."

Read the book of Jude. In that little book of one chapter see how he drives home the fact that God will punish sin. He uses three illustrations to prove this. First he cites the fact that, after God had brought Israel out of Egypt, He destroyed the last one of them that persisted in sin and unbelief. Then he reminds us that "The angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." (Jude 6). Even angels cannot sin and escape the judgment of God. God will punish sin. Again he cites the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah which he says God, "Set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire." (verse 7). Again, in that brief letter, when he speaks

of the second coming of our Lord he says it is "to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed." (verse 15). He is driving home the fact that God will punish sin. This suffering, bleeding, dying, sinning, Hell-bound world needs to know it. Surely, right here on these awful truths, we need to "lift up our voices like a trumpet." We need, like John the Baptist, to warn men to "flee from the wrath to come." (Matt. 3:7). Holy Ghost conviction will come upon sinners again when we do it, and not before.

Preachers have remained silent on these teachings of God's Word or soft-pedaled them until the world has just about lost its fear of God and its sin-consciousness. Sin no longer seems very bad to anybody. The worst most people make of it is that it is a mistake, and most of them try to blame it on the environment in which people live. So we have great denominations abandoning the old time preaching of the gospel and changing their entire program. Their message is a social gospel and their program one of social uplift. But environment is not the trouble with the world today. The trouble is not on the outside; it is on the inside. Man is a sinner by nature and a sinner by choice. Sin is the deadly cancer of the soul, the blight, the wreck, the ruin of the human race. If the preachers all over America would stand in their pulpits and ring the changes on sin, the wrath of God, judgment and Hell and call men to repentance in the good old John-the-Baptist fashion, a revival would break out in twelve months that would sweep America. I am convinced that our present church programs and our present prevalent type of sermonette will never bring a revival. There is but one way to do it—stand up and preach and shun not to declare the whole counsel of God. (Acts 20:27).

### 4. Preach the Bible as God's Inspired Word

I believe in the verbal inspiration of the Scriptures. I believe that God not only inspired it but that He meant every word of it. I believe in the literal interpretation of the Bible. I believe there is literal fire in Hell and that there are real mansions in Heaven. I believe we ought to preach the Bible straight and make no apologies for it. I have had people ridicule me because I believe in a literal Hell. But the Bible says it, and I believe it and preach it. I believe God meant what He said in the Bible and said what He meant.

Down South they tell this story of a negro girl. Her church called a preacher from a modernistic seminary. He would read the Scriptures and explain that it didn't mean what it seemed to say. For instance, he read the story of the rich man and Lazarus and said, "Now that is just a parable and the Lord didn't mean what He said there." Then he gave the modernistic interpretation of it. He followed that course with other passages, particularly on Hell and eternal punishment. After awhile the dear girl had heard that about the Book she loved until she could stand it no longer. She went to him and said, "Parson, might I ask you just one question?" And he said, "Yes, what is it, girl?" She said, "I know you are an educated man and I'm not an educated girl, but listen, Parson, you say over and over when you read the Book that God doesn't mean what He says." She said, "Now listen, Parson, if God didn't mean what He said, why didn't He say what He meant?" Brother, God did mean what he said. And God is fully capable of saying what He meant and saying it so the common people can understand it. I believe the best interpretation of the Bible on earth is the common man's interpretation. Why, the common people heard Him gladly. He used language they could understand. They responded to it. Oh, how this giddy, foolish, frivolous world, wading in sin, thinking lightly of sin, making a mock of sin, going headlong into Hell, how they need the warning message of God! How they need to be told there is eternal punishment and an awful Hell out yonder awaiting them unless they repent and accept God's way of salvation.

## Here Is Spiritual —

(Continued from page one)

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### 5. Preach the Blood of Jesus as the Sinner's only Hope

Let the trumpet give no uncertain sound here. When the Holy Spirit has produced conviction in their hearts, then is the time, brethren, to let them know that God has provided a way of salvation—not many ways, just one way. We need to drive that truth home too. Let them know that God's way is not by way of reformation, not turning over a new leaf, not joining a church, not living up to the rules of the church, not in baptism, not in anything that anybody can do for them or that they can do for themselves, but in the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Oh, take the blessed Book and look at it, and you will see a blood-line running from the Garden of Eden to the New Jerusalem, all the way through the Book. Everywhere you open it, you will see the blood, the blood, the blood! When Adam and Eve sinned, God didn't come down and say, "Now if you're sorry and will behave yourselves and won't do it any more; if you will treat each other right and live right, you will be all right." God held out just one hope—the Seed of the Woman. God has but one remedy for sin. Let us preach it like we believe it. Tell it to a lost world until they can't forget it, that the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, is God's only way of salvation; that it cleanses from all sin; that it will make a new creature in Christ Jesus; that it will plant a new nature in their hearts, and it will change what a man is, and make all things new. That is what the world needs.

"Preach the Word! Be instant in season, out of season!"

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For free copies of my tract, "The Greatest Day of My Life," write to the author, Okko B. Peters, Kesley, Iowa (Please enclose a 3c stamp)

## Editor's Engagements

The three weeks from March 7 through March 28 are being spent in Tulsa, Oklahoma, with a daily broadcast (except Sundays) of 25 minutes on the powerful, 50,000 watt, clear channel radio station, KVOO, 117 on the dial. Letters and cards have come from twenty odd states. I suppose we have heard from 1,500 people in the first half of the time, and expect the mail to increase. Christians are blessed, lost sinners are concerned and asking for help. We trust many will be saved. We are sending out thousands of gospel booklets.

On Sundays and in the evenings I am preaching at the Bible Fellowship Church, where God is giving many blessings. This is not a large church, (around 400 members, I believe), gas rationing keep away multitudes who would come from some distance, war work is very heavy here, yet we have had some blessed experiences, Sunday there were fifteen public professions of faith, I believe. Nearly all of these were conversions, the few others were backsliders reclaimed. Nearly every night we have some blessed experience.

The fellowship with the pastor, Dr. T. Myron Webb, and with Mrs. Webb and the workers has been sweet. God has graciously used Dr. Webb to the blessing of thousands. He had promised us some sermons for *The Sword of the Lord* which we expect will bring a happy response.

My next engagement will be a union campaign sponsored by twelve churches in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin and the surrounding area, beginning March 30th, running through Easter Sunday, April 25th. We earnestly desire the prayers of God's people that many will be saved. I have other invitations to union campaigns, and hope to spend my time principally in such large, united efforts to win souls:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

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## A Story of Soul Winning

(Continued from page one)

truth to their hearts. I handed tracts to those who went through the aisle and to those across the aisle from me.

### How a Brakeman Was Saved

After a half hour or so I saw that the people in the car were anxious enough to know what I was handing out that was interesting to the people, that I could safely offer them a tract too. So I went through the car and gave every one a tract. I got off at stations and handed tracts to workmen. When we stood beside other passenger trains I handed tracts to the people through the window.

I went back to my seat to pray and wait for opportunities for service. Soon the brakeman came in and sat down in the back part of the car. I saw also that he was much interested in the tract and was distressed in mind and soul. Soon he moved to a seat across the aisle from me. He tried to look out of the window into the night, but all he could see was the night in his soul and the night of eternity and that sweet Christian wife and babe at home in Logansport. I prayed while he fought that awful battle with the devil.

When he could stand it no longer he came over and sat down in the seat behind me, and put his hand on my shoulder and said, "Are you a Christian?" I said, "I

am." He said, "Is this verse in this tract in the Bible?" I said, "It is," and turned to my Bible and read, "He that being often reproved, hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." Prov. 29:1.

He said, "I didn't know that was in the Bible." I said, "Are you a Christian?" He said, "I am not, but I have a sweet Christian wife and babe, and I have often thought that I would be a Christian, but I have put it off." I said, "My friend, here is what the Bible says in I John 1:9, 'If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.' You see your part is to confess to Him your sins, and it is His part to forgive, and He has said He would do it. Now, are you willing to confess your sins to Him?"

I waited silently for several moments and prayed while he fought sin and the devil as he never fought before. Finally he said "I will." "Then let us bow our heads right here and do it." I prayed; then asked him to pray. He prayed, and God for Christ's sake forgave him. He said, "My brother, I thank you for what you have done for me. You are doing a grand work. I hope you will keep it up." We met as strangers, but we parted as brothers in Christ, possibly never to meet in this

world again, but in heaven.

### How a Mother Was Assured of Salvation

I went to get a drink of water and as I returned to my seat I saw an elderly lady to whom I had given a tract, and I said to her, "How did you enjoy the tract I gave you?" "Very well," I said, "Are you saved?" She said, "I do not know. I have been a member of the church many years, but I do not believe we can know that until we are dead." I said, "Don't you think that is rather late to find out whether or not we are lost? We will have no chance to repent them. Do you think that is like our Heavenly Father to keep His children in the dark about such an important matter as our soul's salvation?" She said she always thought so.

We turned to the Bible to see what it has to say about assurance of salvation. We read I John 5:13, "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may KNOW that ye have eternal life." John says that he has written these things that we might KNOW whether we are saved or lost. Let us read again in John 3:36, "He that believeth on the Son HATH EVERLASTING LIFE: and he that believeth not on the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." This says very definitely that we can and do know whether we are saved or not.

We will not read any more, but here are some others to read at your leisure: John 1:12; John 5:24; Acts 13:39; I John 5:11, 12; Isaiah 55:7. She said, "I never knew of that before, and I am glad that I have met you." We parted as brother and sister.

I went to the front of the train and spoke to a broken-hearted father and mother. Their boy had left home and gone west and had taken severely ill and they were bringing him home to die. I tried to comfort them as best I could, but they were too sad to talk much, besides we were getting into Indianapolis, where they were to change trains. I helped them get the young man to the hotel, then returned to the station, where I was to wait for a brother and sister and some friends, who were going with me to see some of the places of interest in Indianapolis.

### How a Fruit Stand Keeper Was Saved

While waiting there I looked around for another opportunity for service for Jesus. I saw a young man standing in the door of a fruit stand. I walked up to him and asked him if he would like a tract to read. He took it and thanked me for it. I stepped aside a few feet and waited and prayed while he read it. I went back and gave him another tract, and said, "My friend, are you a Christian?" He said, "No, I am not, but my mother is, and I am a long way from home; she lives in the South." I said, "Don't you think you ought to be a Christian?"

He said, "Yes, I know I ought to be." I said, "The Bible says, 'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.' I John 1:9. Now you see our part is to confess our sins, and He will do the rest. Are you willing to confess your sins and ask His forgiveness?" He said, "I am." I said, "Let us bow our heads in prayer and we will ask Him to forgive you now." I prayed; then I asked him to pray, and he prayed and asked forgiveness. And God forgave him. He said, "I thank you very much for speaking to me, and when you come past here stop in to see me. I am going to write mother to-day and tell her that I have become a Christian." We bade each other good-by, and I went to meet my friends.

### A Printer Confesses Christ

We visited one of the printing offices in the city. After we had gone through the building, the foreman said, "Let me have all the names and I will run them off in type." While we waited for that I spoke to a young man about Jesus. He was a foreigner. He said, "Who is He? I never heard of Him before." I explained to him how we had all sinned and come short of glorifying God, and for that sin we would all receive eternal death unless some sinless person would take our place, but there was only one sinless person, and that was Jesus, the Son of God, who came

down from heaven and was born into the flesh of man that He might die for man. He lived a sinless life; therefore He could die for us. He was crucified for us. Now if we will accept Him as our substitute, and will confess that we have sinned against Him and will ask Him to forgive us of our sins, he will do it. "Will you ask Him to forgive you of your sins?" He said, "Yes."

I asked him to pray, but he did not know how, so I prayed for him. I asked him if he would make my prayer his own and would accept Christ as his Saviour as best he knew how, and he said he would. I think I gave him a tract and the gospel of John, and I left him.

### Mother Thinks I Am Too Young to be Saved

In the afternoon we boarded an Indianapolis and Columbus traction car for Whiteland, near which town my father lived at that time. The car was crowded, and I, with many others, stood up. I passed out some tracts to the people near me.

A young man to whom I had given a tract stood near me. I said to him, "My friend are you a Christian?" He said, "No, sir; I am not old enough." "Not old enough to be a Christian?" "My Mother says I am not old enough to know how to be a Christian." "How old are you?" I think he said he was fifteen or sixteen years old.

I asked him if his mother required him to obey her, and he said, "Sure." "But why would she expect you to obey her when you do not know right from wrong?" "I do know right from wrong." "Then you know it is right to do right and a sin to do wrong?" "Sure." "Did you ever do wrong?" "Sure, everybody has done wrong." "Did you ever repent of your sins?" "No." "Then you are still in your sins, and lost, are you not?" He said, "I don't know, but if you think I am old enough to become a Christian I wish you would pray for me." I said, "I will pray for you, but here is my station and I must leave you. God bless you, my boy." I got off that car with a prayer in my heart for the boy and the poor ignorant mother who had kept her boy in darkness so long.

### A Boy Accepts Jesus

The next day, which was Sunday, a non-Christian family visited us in my father's home. The day was warm and pleasant, so the eleven or twelve-year-old boy who was visiting us, took a notion that he wanted to go fishing in the little creek that ran through my father's farm. He asked our children to go with him, but they refused, because it was Sunday. But he went to dig bait anyway.

My brother came and told me about it. I went out where he was. I said, "My boy, what are you doing?" "I am digging bait. I am going fishing." "You don't mean you are going fishing on Sunday?" "Sure, what is the difference?" My father goes fishing on Sunday." I said, "Don't you know that it is wrong to do those things on the Sabbath day? The Bible says, 'Thou shalt remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.' And to break this commandment would be a sin. And if we sin, God will punish us for it. But God loves us so much He does not want to punish us for sin. He is so good that He said if we would acknowledge our sins and ask Him to forgive us, He would do it. Now, you don't want to do anything wrong against a good friend like God, do you?" He said "No, sir." "Now, I love you, and Jesus loves you. Don't you want Him to forgive you?" "Yes, sir." "Let us kneel down right here and tell Him about it and ask Him to forgive you." We knelt; I prayed for him; then I asked him to pray. He did not know what to say. I told him to say, "Jesus, I have done wrong, and I want you to forgive me." He prayed it: I said, "Do you mean that with all your heart?" "Yes, sir." "Do you believe He does forgive you now?" "Yes, sir." Then I told him that the devil would tempt him, but God had provided a way to escape every temptation. I Cor. 10:13. "There hath no temptation taken you, but such as is common to men: but God is faithful, who will not suffer (allow) you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be

## Lot's Powerlessness

(Continued from page two)

business, bring all you can bring with you for God, but COME OUT OF SODOM! For the sake of your own happiness, for the sake of your loved ones, for the sake of poor, lost souls whom you will never be able to win unless you come out and be separate, I beg you, leave off the worldliness, and be out and out for God. And above every other reason is this; that you are not your own. You are bought with a price. You belong to Jesus Christ, and you owe Him every breath, every heart beat, and all the love and passion and adoration of your soul. Won't you, for Jesus' sake, come out into the surrendered life, the separated life, before the curse of God falls upon you?

And someone may have read this who is a poor, lost sinner, one who has never been born again, one who does not know Christ as your own personal Saviour. You do not have the peace of sins forgiven. You do not have the assurance that you have a home in Heaven. Your conscience has not been purged, and your heart does not cry out to God, "Abba Father." Then I call your attention to the fact made so plain in the case of Lot that God hates sin and must punish it. God sent fire and brimstone on Sodom and burned it down. Men, women and children were utterly destroyed. So long, so long His mercy held on to them; but when there was no hope that any would be saved, He blotted them out in His great wrath! I warn you now, God must punish sin.

God punishes even His own children. Lot did not lose his soul, but he lost everything else he had that he counted dear: wife, children, property, reputation, and peace of mind. Only his unhappy life was spared. It is significant that God would not destroy Lot with the wicked Sodomites.

But God chastened His child. Sin did not pay for Lot, and it will not pay for anybody else.

That is the reason that Christ-rejecting sinners must go to Hell. Oh, dear sinner, I beg you today, flee from Sodom! Repent of your sins. Trust Jesus Christ to save you. Surrender your will to His will. Open your heart and take Him in to be your Saviour and your Lord today!

able to bear it."

"Now, isn't that fine of God to do that? Then He says in Jude 24 that if we would be true to Him He would keep us from falling. 'Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.' Now, isn't that fine that He will keep us from falling?"

### A Colored Man Confesses Christ

That afternoon I went to Franklin to visit a sister. When I boarded the car at Whiteland that afternoon, I sat down beside a colored man, whose face was sad. In a little while I handed him a tract, saying, "Would you like to have something interesting to read?" He took it and thanked me.

I prayed silently that God would bless the message to his soul's salvation. I knew what I did would have to be done quickly, for I had only five miles to go. So I said, "My friend, are you a Christian?" He said, "I am not, but I had a good Christian wife, and she died a week ago." I said, "But don't you think you ought to be a Christian?" He said, "I know I ought to be." "Then let us ask God to forgive you."

We bowed our heads and I prayed and asked God to forgive him. Just then the station was called and we had to part. He thanked me for what I had done for him.

That afternoon I visited Dr. Stott, the ex-president of Franklin College. He asked me to give an account of my stewardship, and when I told him how God had so wondrously saved the above-mentioned people, his eyes filled with tears and he said, "Brother Corn, let us get down on our knees and thank God for it." And as that godly old man prayed and asked God's richest benediction on me, we both wept like children. I believe that benediction is still resting upon me, and I hope it ever shall.

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